

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9199
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1545

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XA, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BAGAZA BURUNDI

REF: BUJUMBURA 128

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG PAID A BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT BAGAZA OF BURUNDI FEBRUARY 5 DURING THE ZANZIBAR CELEBRATIONS. BAGAZA RAISED 3 ISSUES: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE US, THE QUESTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN BURUNDI.

2. BAGAZA SAID HE HOPED THE US WOULD BEGIN TO TRANSFER MORE ASSISTANCE TO SMALL COUNTRIES NOT TO LARGER, WEALTHIER ONES. FORGETTING SMALL POOR COUNTRIES LIKE BURUNDI WAS NOT IN ACCORD WITH AMERICAN VALUES. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID THAT WE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE THROUGH MULTILATERAL AGENCIES AS WELL AS BILATERALLY. WE HAVE FINALLY BEGUN TO START AN AID PROGRAM IN BURUNDI, AND HE BELIEVED THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE MORE SENSITIVE TO NEEDS OF AFRICA.

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3. BAGAZA SAID HE HOPED YOUNG WOULD DISCUSS SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WITH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, BAGAZA SAID, IS THE RESULT OF HISTORICAL PROCESSES. THE REVOLUTION THERE HAD ITS ROOTS IN THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH REVOLUTIONS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE WHITES WOULD BE EXPELLED. FREEDOM CAN BE OBTAINED WITHOUT

TURNING TO RACISM.

4. ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN BURUNDI, BAGAZA SAID THERE HAD BEEN A CHANGE. HIS ASSUMPTION OF POWER IN BURUNDI WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE NEED TO HAVE THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHOOSING BURUNDI'S LEADERS. SOMETIMES THE AMERICAN PRESS GAVE AN INCORRECT PICTURE OF AFRICAN STATES, FOCUSING ON TRIBAL CONFLICTS. THERE HAD BEEN SUCH TROUBLE IN BURUNDI. BUT OVER THE LAST 3 MONTHS, HIS REGIME HAD SOUGHT TO PULL THE POPULATION TOGETHER FOR EVERYONE'S GOOD. HE HAD A STRONG BELIEF IN NATIONAL UNITY. HE HOPED THE US WOULD SUPPORT BURUNDI IN ITS SEARCH FOR NATIONAL UNITY.
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Message Attributes

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